

Hatcher Pass East Management Area & Summit Lake SRS

Winter Recreation Conditions Report

January 15, 2015

****See detailed report below****

AREA	SNOWMOBILE STATUS	NEW SNOW	AVG. SNOW DEPTH	COMMENTS
Goldmint Lot	CLOSED	0"	18"	Goldmint Valley is closed to snowmachines, vegetation still prevalent
Goldmint Trail	<i>Non-Motorized</i>	0"	18"	Trail is hard packed. Please remove waste created by dogs
Archangel Trailhead	<i>Non-Motorized</i>	0"	18"	CLOSED TO SNOWMACHINES Groomed for skiing
Archangel Valley / Reed Lakes	CLOSED	0"	20-22"	Groomed to Fern Gate
Fishhook Lot	CLOSED	0"	18-20"	Wind Blown, vegetation showing, ground showing in spots
Independence Mine	<i>Non-Motorized</i>	0"	22"	Ski trails groomed on the road and around mine buildings
Summit Lake SRS	CLOSED	0"	0-24"	Windblown, bare ground, wind slabs Numerous ridges bare
Mile 16/Paradise Runs	<i>Non-Motorized</i>	0"	18" upper 14" lower	Parking at Mile 16 lot only – NO TURNAROUNDS ON ROAD VERY hard packed snow. Be cautious of moose!!
<i>Average snow depth is recorded uncompressed.</i>				
<i>Snowmobile openings are based on many variables including packed snow base and vegetation coverage</i>				

**** Overall conditions are poor.** Abundant vegetation showing and numerous rocks exposed. For the past week Hatcher Pass has seen above freezing temperatures at all elevations. Some areas have gone through freeze/thaw cycles, while some areas have held above freezing for days. Surprisingly, the *depth* of the snow pack has held up despite the warm temperatures, but is still meager in most places. The snow at lower elevation and south facing aspects have gone isothermal over last weekend and displayed rapid melting and settling. On January 15 while taking measurements, it was raining up to 3200 feet and a rain/ice mix at higher elevations. Special warning of numerous moose using the trails and have been spotted in the Mile16/ Paradise run areas. Reminder that all of East side of Hatcher Pass and the Summit Lake area are closed to snow machines until adequate snow to protect vegetation.

The Department of Natural Resources has created a web-based report for recreational user conflicts in the East Hatcher Pass Management Area. To access the report go to: http://dnr.alaska.gov/mlw/planning/mgtplans/hatcher/incident_rpt/
Collected information may be used to assist DNR in identifying recreational conflict types and areas of conflict. These reports will not necessarily result in active enforcement or investigation. Additional information can also be provided to the area rangers by contacting the Mat-Su Area Headquarters at 907-745-8950.

Additional snow and weather information can be found at the Independence Mine Snow-tel website at: <http://ambcs.org/SiteViewer.shtml> or Marmot Mountain weather station website at: http://www.cnjaic.org/wx/wx_marmot.php
Please note: A \$5 day-use parking fee or 2014 annual parking pass is required at most trailheads throughout the Hatcher Pass Area. 2014 passes are now available and can be purchased online at <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/passes.cfm> or purchased from park offices, park staff, REI, and AMH.

ATTENTION BACKCOUNTRY USERS: The Hatcher Pass Area is an **AVALANCHE HAZARD AREA**. Be sure and take your beacons, shovels and probes with you and be knowledgeable of their use. **BE PREPARED** Safe traveling can prevent backcountry emergencies and costly search and rescues. Always let someone know where you're going. Know the hazards of the country you're traveling. Travel with a pack containing safety gear and emergency provisions.

For avalanche information: <http://hatcherpassavalanchecenter.org/>

